

CITY NEWS IN BRIEF

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AMUSEMENTS.

MARQUAM GRAND THEATER (Morrison St. between 21st and 22d)—Tonight at 8:15, Elks' benefit entertainment.
ARCADE THEATER, Seventh and Washington—Continues yesterday's 2:30 to 10:30.
CORDEY'S THEATER, Washington St.—Evening, 8:15. "Maloney's Wedding."
THE BAKER THEATER, Third and Yamhill streets—Evening, 8:15, the Baker company in a Celebrated Case.

PEAS WERE'N' ALWAYS HERE.—A pioneer citizen, who was buying apples yesterday, observed a worse one in box and expressed his disgust for the codlin moth which has put orchardists in this state to so much trouble and expense. He said for many years after he arrived in Oregon he never saw nor heard of a wormy apple, and it was not till within 15 or 20 years that anything had been heard of the terrible San Jose scale. The dealer explained that the codlin moth was imported into Oregon from Missouri, which is a great apple-producing country. It did not cross the plains in an ox wagon as many other Missouri products did, but soon after the railroad across the continent was completed there was a short crop of apples in Oregon and a few carloads were shipped in from Missouri by rail. In them the codlin moth arrived, and as it was for orchardists, the San Jose scale also found its way into Oregon by accident. A party of Portland people, old-time residents, spent the winter in San Jose some 20 years ago, and on returning in the spring brought home a lot of plants and shrubs. Nothing was known here of the San Jose scale at that time, but when these plants all died and the shrubs and trees of neighbors began to die, an investigation was started, and it was found that Oregon had acquired another insect pest, and one of the worst kind. Later it was ascertained that the scale was introduced into San Jose from China, its home. H. B. Miller, American Consul to China, hunted up its record there and found that the lady bug, considered the worst of the scale within bounds. He sent a lot of these ladybugs to Washington, where they were propagated, and have been sent out to places where the scale is destructive. Some were sent to Eastern Oregon not long ago, and it is hoped that they will flourish and spread all over the state and in time partially exterminate the San Jose scale. It would scarcely be imagined that such tiny pests could travel the way as Oregon, or do so much damage as they have since arriving here.

SWAN BECOMES SCARCER.—Swan are seldom seen in the markets here of late years, and they are not much missed as they are rather a course and tough fowl for the table. Looking at a brace of them displayed yesterday, Mr. Morgan, a pioneer settler of Sauvie's Island, and proprietor of one of the best duck lakes there, covering 15 acres, remarked that swan which used to visit this section in thousands are now very scarce, since the waterholes on which they used to feed were exterminated. They seldom pass this way now, and no large flocks are seen going south or returning. "In early days," he said, "I have seen thousands of them on my lake at a time, fairly covering the whole 15 acres and looking as if a man could walk across it on them. In those days hunting parties often shot 20 or 30 of the big fowls, enough to make a wagon load. They are hunted on the water when a hand was shot at they would fly off to a distance, but if hunting dogs were allowed to chase up and down the shore of the lake they would swim back within gun shot to look at them, and canvasback ducks used to do the same. Now the waterholes are gone and the swan and canvasback have practically disappeared with them."

NEARLY RAN OVER BUILDING.—The office of the Rock Island Railroad system in the Chambers building, corner of Third and Alder streets, and the occupants, including the artists who are painting a map on the front window, had a narrow escape from destruction yesterday. The asphalt pavement on Alder street, just east of Third, was being patched and repaired, and the big steam roller owned by the city was being operated on the patches to solidify them and make the surface of the street even. In some way the steering gear of the roller got out of order and the operator lost control of it so it was headed toward the curb. It could not be stopped, but knocking a piece out of the concrete curb, climbed over it, and made for the large plate glass window of the Rock Island office, where the intention of smashing it, and also knocking out the brick pier in the corner which supports the upper stories. The machine was heavy enough to have accomplished this easily, and would doubtless have done it had not the operator fortunately regained control and stopped it, as it was within a foot of the window. Just who was most pleased, the operator or the occupants of the office is hard to say.

MAT LAY NEW TRACKS.—A man sitting between the rails of a car track on Fifth street yesterday sawing away at one of the rails with a small hand saw explained that there was a break in the rail and that he was cutting out a section of the rail in order to put in a sound piece. He said if he had a good saw he could cut a rail in two in 15 minutes, but some of the saws were bad and it took a long job to saw a rail. On attention being called to the fact that the face of the rail was but little higher than the flange, he explained that the rails had been made for a cable road, the cable cars being held firmly on the track by the cable and not needing to be so high as the rails for electric cars. They make a rather rough track for electric cars, but it is possible that a new track of heavy-grooved rails will be laid on Fifth street next summer.

MONTH HARD TO BORROW.—Real estate dealers report business as improving very perceptibly. Many brokers say "money is looking up," that is it is a long job to procure money that it was a long job to procure. Money that could have been procured six months ago for 5 per cent cannot be procured now for less than 7 per cent and quite a number of loans have been made lately at 8 per cent. This will please people who have money to loan, but will not please those who have to borrow, and an increase in the price of real estate will please those who wish to sell, but not those who want to buy. It is not often that anything pleases everybody.

BREAKS LEO IN PAUL.—F. H. Brandies, a contractor, who has shops at Second and Main streets, fell from a scaffold yesterday afternoon and broke his leg. He was taken to the Good Samaritan Hospital where he will be confined for some time. Brandies was hanging a door for the Holman Implement House when he lost his balance and fell. His leg was caught in a cramped position and his whole weight was thrown on it in such a way as to snap the bone.

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LODGE TO GIVE SMOKER.—Williamette Council, Royal Arcanum, is making elaborate preparations for a smoker and vaudeville entertainment at Auditorium Hall, on Thursday, February 4. It will be free to members and their invited guests. A highly enjoyable time is looked forward to.

THIS second session of St. Mary's Academy and College opens Monday, February 1st.

FLORES place, decorations and house plants at Burkhart's, 231 and 233. Does Wooster give full weight? Tib-Mor. PARQUET floors, 421 Morrison street.

BUILDING LIGHTHOUSES HARD WORK. Several men who were employed last Summer in the construction of lighthouses along the coast of Alaska, on noticing that a model of Tillamook rock is being made to meet the St. Louis Fair requested that a whole flock of such models be patterned after Alaska lights. There are several superintendents of construction and their gangs of men were working on Alaskan light stations last Summer, now in this city waiting for the season when they can go back to resume operations. One superintendent and gang remained all Winter at Tree Point, where the station was covered in to complete the inside work. One of the men here said he had just received a letter from a friend, who was one of two men left on Quana Island, to take care of the temporary stake light erected there for the Winter, and who stated that it was getting cold up there. A gang of 15 men, in charge of Superintendent of Construction F. M. Brooke, spent five weeks on Guard Island, which is a bare rock of the area of half an acre, ten miles from Ketchikan and although the weather was very stormy at the time succeeded in constructing the forms for the concrete foundations for a lighthouse to be built there this Summer. When they were forced to leave, a stake light was put up for the Winter and two men left to take care of it and they had no place to go but to rubber ducky, and are anxious for the work of laying water mains for a boat and intercept local steamers passing, and get mail and supplies, but this is rather dangerous, as last season a man who went out in a boat for mail was blown out to sea and could not get back and was given up for lost. Two days later his boat was wrecked on a reef of rocks, 20 miles down the coast, and he managed to swim ashore and save his life, but was badly battered and bruised.

BAD WEATHER DON'T STOP CONTRACTORS.—Outside work of many kinds has been kept up all Winter with scarcely a single interruption from bad weather. The work of laying water mains for the city has been progressing continuously, two gangs of 40 men in all being employed. One of these gangs is now at work on Division street, east of East Twenty-sixth, and the other on Prescott street, near Highland. While it has been a little uncomfortable for the men at times, they have not been obliged to quit work though several times they have been bothered a little by water collecting in the trenches after heavy rains. The construction of sewers has also been kept going in several places, but in the city at large the work has been done under great difficulty at times. At Belmont and East Thirty-seventh streets, where Contractor Simmons is constructing a lateral sewer the water has at times seeped in until it was two feet or more in depth in the trench, and he was obliged to supply his men with long-legged gum boots. They always drained off the water and kept the work going, though Simmons says anybody is welcome to all his profits in the job. The contract of W. Sweeney for macadamizing Sherman street, from First to the foot of the hills about Seventh street, has been progressing through all the bad weather and is nearly completed to the great satisfaction of the property-owners on the street. The completion of 40 1/2 Third street, block at the head of the street will, however, have to be put off till the ground gets dry, as since the heavy rains a spring has broken out at the foot of the hill, which keeps the ground there saturated, thus making it impossible to haul or rock hauling can be done there at present.

OWNER PAYS THE TAXES.—Many people never acquire a complete knowledge of the law in regard to paying taxes, in fact they do not know the first thing about property is changing hands every day, there are always inquiries as to who is liable for the taxes, the man who has owned the property for 35 years more or the man who has just bought it, and the taxes are about to be collected. The assessment roll is made out by the Assessor and is turned over to the County Clerk, who extends it, and places the amount of the tax on each piece of property in the proper column, and then turns it over to the Sheriff and issues a warrant authorizing him to go ahead and collect the taxes. The person in whose name the property is at the time this warrant is issued has to pay the taxes. For instance, if a man deeds away a piece of property on January 30, the taxes on February 1 a warrant is issued in the Sheriff to collect the taxes, the man who secured the deed will have to pay the taxes on the property. As far as the city taxes are concerned to one can object to this, as they are collected for the year to come, but many do object to paying the county taxes on property for a year when the property was owned by another, while the new owner may only have owned it for a day.

ORION AT ST. LOUIS.—The first shipment of timbers for the Oregon State building at St. Louis was shipped yesterday. Two carloads of poles and shanks for the stockades were sent during the afternoon from Rainier and several more carloads are nearly ready for shipment. The balance of the material required for the building will be shipped as rapidly as it is needed at St. Louis. The finished material will not go until March. G. Y. Harry, who is to superintend the work of construction on behalf of the Lewis and Clark Commission, will leave Monday for the Missouri metropolis to begin his duties. He will employ a force of Eastern workmen to perform the work.

VALUABLE COINS STOLEN.—A valuable collection of rare coins that Mr. J. J. Borg has been collecting for 25 years past, was stolen from her home at 428 East Ninth street sometime during Wednesday night. The family was away while the robbers were at work in the place. They got in through a window and ransacked every part of the inside. The collection of coins contained many rare specimens and was highly valued by the owner. In addition to the coin collection, some jewelry was taken by the intruders. The police were notified, but they could get no trace of the thieves.

FOUNDER DEAD IN BED.—John H. Couch, formerly a New Hampshire banker, who has been in Portland for the past year for his health, was found dead in bed yesterday morning at the home of his father-in-law, George Wood, east of 28th Street. Death is thought to have been brought on by heart disease. The body will be shipped to Concord for burial. At that place the deceased was for 18 years connected with the First National Bank, and has many friends resting there.

TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE.—You are cordially invited to join the Elks in their enjoyment of the entertainment provided for them at the Marquam Grand Theater tonight. Come early, as the curtain goes up promptly at 8:15.

LECTURE ON SIR WALTER SCOTT.—Robert Livingston gives a free stereoscopic lecture tonight at the Hotel Resort on "Sir Walter Scott and Scotland." The public is invited.

FIVE-ROOM flat for rent: central, Graves & Co.'s Music Store, 328 Wash. * No better PANCAKES than OLYMPIC.

"The best pill I ever used," is the frequent remark of purchasers of Carter's Little Liver Pills. When you try them you will say the same.

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AT THE THEATERS.
"Maloney's Wedding."
Dan Maloney.....Law Nelson
Judah Roche.....Claude Ratcliffe
Charles Roche.....Harry Fanelle
Aquinale Phillippe.....James E. Brown
Harry.....Nellie Fillmore
Olesee.....Charles Gert
Count Bunsack.....Andy B. Rice
Tom.....Raymond Foster
Dick.....Willie Crawford
Carrie.....Allie W. Ward
Mrs. Clancy.....Lucas Pierpont
Mamie Riley.....Maude Sutton

Clean-cut, sparkling fun and enjoyable songs and specialties mark the municipal farce, "Maloney's Wedding," which began a short engagement last night at Cordey's Theater. The audience was a large one. "Maloney's Wedding," illustrating the troubles of an Irishman in getting married, is written to make people laugh, and fills the bill. There's not a dull moment in it, and everybody in the cast works hard. Laura Pierpont, who resembles Marie Tempest, is one of the prettiest ingenues who has appeared at Cordey's for a long time. She plays the part of Miss Marjory Roche and gives most amusing imitation of Anna Held singing "The Maiden With the Dreamy Eyes." Her encore was "All on Saturday Night." She has an excellent soprano voice, and is a capable actress. Maude Sutton, daughter of "Uncle Dick" Sutton, the theater manager of Butte, Mont., makes an interesting sourette, and Law Nelson is amusing as "Irish" Dan Maloney. Harry Fanelle and Claude Ratcliffe present a lively specialty, with dance. There is also a cornet solo worth hearing. "Maloney's Wedding" will be the attraction at Cordey's this evening and tomorrow afternoon and evening.

At the Baker.
How easy it is to be mistaken—to convict a man on circumstantial evidence of a crime he never committed! This fact is strongly illustrated in the powerful drama "A Celebrated Case," which the Baker Theater Company is playing this week at the Baker Theater.

Arcade's Star Bill.
Jessie More sings the "Song of a Nightingale" at the Arcade as only a nightingale can sing it. This talented soprano is only one of a programme of six star acts at this popular theater.

"Maloney's Wedding."
"Maloney's Wedding" plays again tonight at Cordey's Theater, and also at the matinee and evening Saturday.

CONCLUSION OF THE SCROLLS.
Religious Ceremony of Rare Interest to Be Held Sunday.

A unique ceremony will be performed at 40 1/2 Third street, block at the head of the street, at 8 o'clock, when a "Seiyun Ha-Torah"—conclusion of the scrolls—will take place. This ceremony, which is probably the second ever to be witnessed in Portland, consists in writing the end letters to the Torah, or the Bible. The Torah of the Jews is composed of the five books of Moses written in Hebrew on specially prepared parchment with vegetable ink and goose quills. The entire scroll, except the last word, is written by orthodox Jews in the Jewish colleges or yeshibas of Russia and Jerusalem. The scrolls are taken to various Jewish communities all over the world, who celebrate the acquisition of a Torah by feasting and writing the letters of the end words. This writing is generally done by the wealthy members of the community, who contribute towards the support of the synagogue for this privilege. W. Fox, who recently arrived from Odessa, Russia, became possessed of a Torah, and in order to add the missing words, he has written the end letters to the Torah. Fox Synagogue will conduct the ceremony.

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42-in. Black Crepe de Chene for only.....\$1.35
48-in. Black Dot Mozambique for only.....\$2.93
48-in. Black Corona Cord.....\$1.75
56-in. Black Soft Finished Worsted for.....\$1.25
52-in. Black Serge, guaranteed waterproof, for.....\$1.15
58-in. Black Herringbone.....\$1.60
45-in. Black Alpaca.....90c
46-in. Black Sicilian.....90c
45-in. Black Sicilian.....\$1.50
45-in. Black Alpaca.....\$2.50
52-in. Black Granite.....80c

Colored Dress Goods
58-in. Knickerbocker Suitings, regular \$2.00 values, sale price.....\$1.50
58-in. Zibelines, in browns, grays and blues, \$1.75 values, sale price.....\$1.10
60-in. Kersey Suitings, for skirts and suits, \$2.00 values, sale price.....\$1.27
52-in. Mixed Suiting, regular value \$1.25, sale price.....98c
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One-pound package cornstarch, 5 Cents
Pound Gloss starch in bulk, 10 Cents
Package H. O. buckwheat or pancake flour, 10 Cents
Package Falcon pancake flour, 25 Cents
Three cans standard tomatoes, 5 Cents
One-pound can pork and beans, 5 Cents

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